

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

May 2016

From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

HERO. Webster's Dictionary defines a hero as "a person who is admired for great or brave acts and fine qualities." Heroes are all around us – some well known, others less known but no less a hero.

Over the past two weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet real-life heroes. They shared a common trait not found in Webster's definition – they are humble.

In early May, I attended the Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was a great event, but the highlight for me was meeting real-life heroes John Tiegen and Mark Geist, both former Marines, and former Army Ranger Kris Paronto. Their heroic actions, portrayed in the movie "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi," saved the lives of dozens of people – Americans and Libyans alike – while fighting off terrorists who attacked the American diplomatic compound and CIA security annex in Benghazi, Libya.

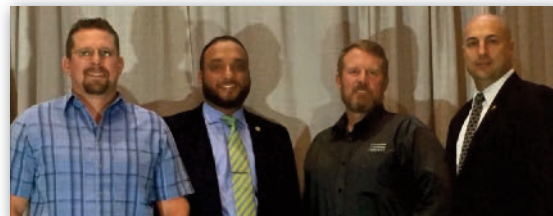
Closer to home, I had the opportunity of interacting with a real-life hero during the recent IESMA Training Summit. Don Pointer of the Bridgeview EMA volunteered his professional services as photographer at the summit. At a banquet on April 29, Don literally dropped everything, including his camera, to perform the Heimlich maneuver, which saved an individual from choking.

Thousands of people die each year in the U.S. from choking. Thankfully, Don's quick actions and skills prevented this incident from becoming yet another tragic statistic.

Heroes are indeed all around us. My thanks to these four outstanding men, and to all the other heroes whose stories are yet to emerge. God bless you.



Director Joseph, Don Pointer and Bridgeview Police EMA Director Martin Vilimek.



Former Marine John Tiegen, Director Joseph, Former Marine John Geist and Captain Chris Kelenske, director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Michigan State Police.

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State's Disaster Impact Assessment Form Recognized by NEMA

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) recently recognized IEMA's Disaster Impact Assessment Form in the "EM Excellence" section of its April newsletter. The form, developed in 2012 by IEMA staff, provides an easy format for local jurisdictions to collect information that illustrates the effect of a disaster on the whole community.

The form not only helps jurisdictions document the number of homes and businesses affected and local government disaster-related costs, but also enables them to depict the human consequences and the stress placed on local jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations in responding to and recovering from the disaster.

Disaster impacts such as deaths and serious injuries; involvement of voluntary agencies and non-

governmental organizations; impacts to housing, infrastructure, critical facilities, businesses and other aspects of the community; disruptions to government services; recent disasters; demographic information; and disaster-specific challenges help paint a more complete picture of the actual effect on the whole community.

Portions of the form can be completed before a disaster occurs, with the remaining information filled in after a disaster occurs. The information submitted on this form helps IEMA support the state's requests for federal assistance.

The form and instructions are available on the IEMA website at <http://www.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/Documents/PForms/DisasterImpactForm.pdf>.

Klinger Discusses Regulatory Principles at NRC Conference

Assistant Director Joe Klinger recently provided Illinois' perspective on 25 years of a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) initiative to ensure safety and security of nuclear reactors and radioactive materials. His remarks were part of a session at the federal agency's 28th Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Klinger, who is Governor Rauner's designated representative to the NRC, participated in a panel discussion on the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation, which include independence, openness, efficiency, clarity and reliability. He highlighted the state's many nuclear and radiation safety programs and initiatives and discussed the current and future relevance of the NRC's principles. Other panelists for the session included a former NRC commissioner, a representative from the Nuclear Energy Institute, an attorney and NRC personnel.

The RIC draws several thousand participants from more than 30 countries. The conference is an opportunity for government, industry, international agencies, members of the public and other interested stakeholders to meet and discuss new and emerging issues related to the safety and security of new, operating and decommissioned reactors and radioactive materials licensees.

Klinger joined Illinois' radiation safety program at the former Department of Nuclear Safety in 1988 and was appointed as IEMA Assistant Director in 2007. He also served as Interim Director from mid-2010 to early 2011. He is a former chairperson of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and is recognized nationally and internationally for his expertise and knowledge in radiation safety issues.



IEMA Assistant Director Joe Klinger (far left) participated in a panel discussion during the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's annual Regulatory Information Conference.

Meet IEMA's Senior Staff: Paul Rasch

Paul Rasch is the newest addition to IEMA's senior staff following his promotion to chief of the Bureau of Operations on May 1. While the title is new, he's a familiar face to many people who have interacted with the agency over the past 16 years.

Rasch began working for IEMA in November 1999 as a part-time dispatcher in the communications center. His appointment was an emergency hire as the agency ramped up efforts for the potential impacts of Y2K. He later was hired permanently and became the communications center's supervisor in February 2001.

From September 2002 until September 2008, Rasch served as the IEMA Region 2 coordinator, where he spearheaded the state's response efforts for numerous emergencies, including the deadly Utica tornado in April 2004 and the tragic shootings on the Northern Illinois Campus in DeKalb in February 2008.

In September 2008, Rasch took a job as emergency management coordinator for Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where he handled several emergencies but fortunately never faced a direct hit by a hurricane.

He returned to IEMA in November 2011 as manager of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). His calm demeanor and years of emergency management experience have helped him guide several SEOC activations, including the 2012 Harrisburg tornado, the November 2013 outbreak of two dozen tornadoes across the state and the late December 2015 flooding.

Public service is in Rasch's blood. His father was a



Paul Rasch (right) with Gov. Bruce Rauner at a ceremony for the anniversary of the Fairdale tornado.

firefighter and Rasch began his long public service career in 1974 as a volunteer firefighter in Middletown, Connecticut. He also served as that city's deputy director of Civil Preparedness (a predecessor of the emergency management terminology) and later was deputy director and director of Civil Preparedness in Killingworth, Connecticut. He moved to Illinois and joined IEMA in 1999.

Rasch led Illinois' first out-of-state Emergency Management Assistance Compact deployment to Florida in 2004 following Hurricane Ivan, and in 2005 he took an emergency management team to Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina.

Undoubtedly, Rasch's years of experience and dedication to public service will serve him well as he undertakes the responsibilities and challenges of IEMA's Bureau of Operations.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds Approved for FFY 2015

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently approved seven of Illinois' applications for federal fiscal year 2015 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds. Two additional applications are still under review.

Illinois will receive a total of \$272,484 in PDM funds to support the development of state and local hazard mitigation plans. Jurisdictions approved to create a Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000-compliant hazard mitigation plan are DeWitt, Douglas, Gallatin, Greene, Hancock and Menard counties and Illinois State University.

A 25 percent non-federal cost match is required for

FEMA PDM awards.

An approved hazard mitigation plan is important to a jurisdiction because it then is eligible to receive federal funding for projects that eliminate or reduce the risks of future natural disasters.

Illinois State University is the first institution of higher education in Illinois to receive a PDM award for campus-specific planning efforts. It is one of only a few universities nationally to be approved to develop a campus natural hazard mitigation project. Southern Illinois University in Carbondale previously participated in Jackson County's hazard mitigation plan.

Additional EMPG Funding to be Awarded for FFY 2015

Following a thorough, strategic review of Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds for federal fiscal year 2015, IEMA identified more than \$1 million that will be reinvested to support critical programs at 70 local emergency management agencies this year.

The additional awards will fund previously submitted costs for local emergency management's day-to-day operation of local disaster preparedness and response programs. This additional funding is being provided to emergency management agencies that have documented eligible previously submitted expenses beyond their initial allocation. The award amounts were determined by a population-based

formula, as prescribed by administrative rule.

This additional funding comes from unobligated funding at the state level as well as unobligated grant funds from the initial allocation of \$4 million to 119 accredited city and county emergency management agencies earlier this year.

IEMA also expects to be able to determine grant allocations for the federal fiscal year 2016 awards in the near future for all 121 currently accredited emergency management agencies. As in the past few years, an initial allocation of \$4 million likely will be available for this grant program.

Telecommunicators Key to Disaster Response

Emergencies occur at all hours of the day and night. To ensure quick, effective response, public safety agencies throughout Illinois and across the nation depend on dedicated, skilled telecommunicators.

IEMA is proud of the devoted men and women who staff the agency's telecommunications center 24/7. The center handles a wide range of calls for IEMA and other state agencies, including reports on the arson hotline, hazardous materials and other incidents, meth labs, railroad crossing accidents and derailments, and more. In 2015, these reports along with other communications log activities totaled nearly 30,000.

National Public Service Telecommunicators Week occurs in mid-April; however, we think these dedicated public safety personnel deserve our

gratitude and recognition throughout the year. IEMA's communications personnel are pictured below.



Lisa Shelbourne



Paul Kattner



Joshua DeHeve



John Neal



Toni Watkins



Ken Kirgan

State, Local Personnel Take Part in IESMA Exercise

As part of its annual conference in Springfield in late April, the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) conducted a Day 3 Capstone earthquake exercise that focused on bringing Emergency Management Assistance Teams (EMAT) and Incident Management Teams (IMT) together to address and manage a mass care event after a 7.7 magnitude earthquake.

In addition to 35 EMAT members and 18 IMT members, participants included four staff from IEMA's Strategic Planning Cell and 10 liaisons from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The exercise enabled SEOC liaisons from various state agencies to witness firsthand the roles and responsibilities of Mobile Support Teams.

The scenario focused on forward command teams deploying to southern Illinois to address the care of more than 7,000 people while preparing to relocate them to unaffected parts of the state.

The exercise enabled IESMA to test its recently acquired mobile emergency operations center equipment that includes 10 laptops, four projectors for displaying situational information on four large-screen monitors, two printer/scanner/copiers and a plotter/printer that provided 2-foot by 3-foot maps of the affected area.

IESMA currently is planning a fall exercise for the day before the IEMA Training Summit.



Several SEOC liaisons, including Tom Korty from the Illinois Department of Transportation (center), participated in the exercise.



Darryl Dragoo, IEMA, and Abby Damm, Western Illinois University, served as exercise controllers.



IESMA's new mobile emergency operations center was activated for the exercise.



Dir. Joseph, shown here with Emergency Management Assistance Team member Mary Pratt, observed exercise activities.

Hands-On Activities Help Kids Learn About IEMA

More than 30 children and relatives of IEMA employees enjoyed a day away from school as they learned about the agency and participated in several hands-on activities during “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” on April 28.

Following a tour of the State Emergency Operations Center and the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, the children visited IEMA’s radiochemistry laboratory, toured some of the agency’s mobile response vehicles, and had the opportunity to “dress-out” in protective gear and use radiation detectors. In the afternoon, children observed their parents at work in their offices.

The activities were designed to introduce young people to all types of employment and to heighten their career aspirations while giving them insight into what their parents do each day when they go to work.



IEMA staff checked students for radioactive contamination as they walked through the portal monitor.



Students donned protective gear and scanned Dir. Joseph for radiation.



These “lab assistants” found the gamma spectrometer interesting.



Students learned that some “every day” items can be radioactive.

State Requests Homeland Security, Preparedness Funds

IEMA recently submitted the state's request for federal fiscal year 2016 preparedness grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Earlier this year, DHS notified states and territories of funding opportunities for 10 DHS preparedness grant programs totaling more than \$1.6 billion.

The grant programs provide funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as transportation authorities, nonprofit organizations and the private sector, to improve the nation's readiness in preventing, protecting against, responding to, recovering from and mitigating terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.

Illinois was eligible to apply for the following preparedness grant programs:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which provides approximately \$10 million to assist state and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), which provides more than \$85 million for the state and Chicago urban area to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats.
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides \$20 million nationally to support target

hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and located within an urban area. Chicago is an eligible urban area in Illinois.

The focus of Illinois' applications for FFY 2016 continues to be on the advancement of state and local emergency management preparedness, response and recovery activities and sustaining statewide public safety preparedness activities to address gaps identified through the latest Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) across all core capabilities that are consistent with the Illinois Homeland Security Strategy.

A priority of the EMPG funding application is to support day-to-day operations of local disaster preparedness and response programs through the continuation of core emergency management planning, training and exercises. For the HSGP, Illinois highlighted programs to support operational communications, information technology and cyber security, community resilience and risk management, critical transportation, operational coordination, training and exercises, intelligence and information sharing and consequence management.

The awards for FFY 2016 are expected to be released by DHS by Sept. 30, 2016.

Preparedness Important for Functional, Access Needs

While emergency preparedness is important for every home, it's especially critical for households with members who have disabilities, functional needs or may need assistance during an emergency.

During May, IEMA is highlighting preparedness for people with functional and access needs and their caregivers.

The Ready Illinois website (www.Ready.Illinois.gov) offers a guidebook with preparedness tips for people with visual, cognitive or mobility impairments; people who are deaf or hard of hearing; those who utilize service animals or life support systems; and senior citizens.

For each functional need, the guidebook provides a list of supplemental items for a disaster kit, tips on developing an emergency plan, suggestions on how to be better informed about community emergency planning and a checklist of preparedness activities.

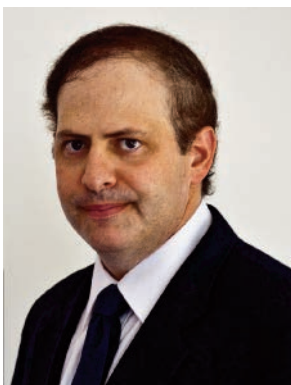
The Ready Illinois website also offers more than two dozen preparedness videos in American Sign Language on such topics as what to do before, during and after tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding, how to build an emergency supply kit, and what to do if you're instructed to evacuate.

2016 IEMA Training Summit Spotlight: Breakout Session to Examine Global Terror Threats

Editor's Note: The 2016 IEMA Training Summit will be held Sept. 6-8 in Springfield. In the Inside IEMA issues leading up to the summit, we will spotlight some of the sessions and activities being offered.

The rising threat of ISIS-related attacks in the U.S. and the resulting implications for first responders are concerns shared by many professionals in the public safety arena. A breakout session at the 2016 IEMA Training Summit will examine these global terror threats, the presence of ISIS-linked individuals in the U.S. and measures first responders can take to counter these challenges.

The presenter will be Dean C. Alexander, a professor at Western Illinois University and director of the school's Homeland Security Research Program. Professor Alexander's teaching, research and speaking activities encompass terrorism, security and



Dean C. Alexander

legal issues. He has lectured in 10 counties to audiences including first responders and military officials.

Alexander also has written several books on terrorism, including "The Islamic State: Combating the Caliphate Without Borders," which was published last year.

His professional experience includes executive, business development and legal positions in the U.S. and abroad, including Chile, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Alexander has a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor degree from American University.

Participant registration for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit will be available on the IEMA website around the beginning of June. Vendor registration currently is open at www.illinois.gov/iema.



2016 IEMA Training Summit

Vendor registration is now open.
Register now to get early pricing deals on
vendor booths before July 1.

www.Ready.Illinois.gov

Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:
<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



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For more information on this newsletter, contact:

Patti Thompson • Public Information Officer: (217) 557-4756